

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 29-39 and add new claims 40-51 as set forth in the complete listing below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-39.(Canceled)

40 (New). A hood for protecting the head of a user, said hood comprising:
a flexible skin for providing protection for the user's head; and
a foldable frame, operative to support said flexible skin;
wherein said flexible skin is attached to said foldable frame;
wherein said foldable frame is unfoldable to a first position where said foldable frame supports said flexible skin, surrounding at least a portion of the user's head and spaced from the head of the user;

wherein said foldable frame is foldable to a second position where said foldable frame and said flexible skin are stowed at said second position, with said flexible skin clear of the user's head;

and wherein said foldable frame comprises one or more frame elements able to be twisted upon themselves for the foldable frame to be looped upon itself.

41 (New). A hood according to claim 40, wherein the foldable frame comprises one or more substantially flexible members that are twistable upon themselves from the first position, where the foldable frame is in a first stable configuration and extended, to the second position,

where the foldable frame assumes a second stable configuration in which the foldable frame is looped upon itself.

42 (New). A hood according to claim 40, wherein said foldable frame comprises two hinges positioned at respective sides of the hood and one or more frame members connected between the two hinges.

43 (New). A hood according to claim 42, wherein said one or more substantially flexible frame members comprise two or more substantially flexible frame members, a first substantially flexible frame member being pivotal about said hinges, said first substantially flexible frame member comprising first and second pivots on either side thereof, and second and subsequent substantially flexible frame members being affixed at their ends to pivot about the first and second pivots.

44 (New). A hood according to any one of claims 40 to 43, wherein said foldable frame comprises an "L" shaped member, to allow the hood to reach forward over the wearer's face when said foldable frame is in said first position, and to enable the hood to lie flush against the back of the wearer when said foldable frame is in said second position.

45 (New). A foldable frame for use in a hood for protecting the head of a user, the hood having a flexible skin for providing protection for the user's head and said frame being operative to support the flexible skin;

said frame comprising means for attachment for said flexible skin;

said foldable frame being unfoldable to a first position where said foldable frame supports said flexible skin, surrounding at least a portion of the user's head and spaced from the head of the user;

said foldable frame being foldable to a second position where said foldable frame and said flexible skin are stowed at said second position, with said flexible skin clear of the user's head;

and said foldable frame comprising one or more frame elements able to be twisted upon themselves for the foldable frame to be looped upon itself.

46 (New). A foldable frame according to claim 45, comprising one or more substantially flexible members, said one or more substantially flexible members being able to be twisted upon themselves from the first position, where the foldable frame is in a first stable configuration and extended, to the second position, where the foldable frame assumes a second stable configuration in which the foldable frame is looped upon itself.

47 (New). A foldable frame according to claim 45 in a garment having a said hood, a collar and a back, wherein said first position comprises said foldable frame, when the user is wearing the garment, supporting the flexible skin to protect the top, sides and rear of the user's head;

and wherein said second position comprises said foldable frame and the flexible skin being disposed on the back of the garment behind the collar.

48 (New). A foldable frame according to any one of claims 45 through 47, comprising an "L" shaped member, to allow the hood to reach forward over the wearer's face when said foldable frame is in said first position, and to enable the hood to lie flush against the back of the wearer when said foldable frame is in said second position.

49 (New). A foldable frame according to claim 45 comprising two hinges at respective sides thereof and one or more frame members connected between the two hinges.

50 (New). A foldable frame according to claim 49, wherein said one or more frame members comprise two or more substantially flexible frame members, a first substantially flexible frame member being pivotable about said hinges, said first substantially flexible frame member comprising first and second pivots on either side thereof, and second and subsequent substantially flexible frame members being affixed at their ends to pivot about the first and second pivots.

51 (New). A head cover comprising:
a fabric cover for extending over and above the wearer's head;
a frame comprising two support members for being connected to respective sides of said wearer's head and a rib having ends connected to the support members and operable for extending over said wearer's head and supporting the fabric cover above the hair and spaced from the head of the user;